AALL Committee Activities and Action Plan

Name: Joan Shear
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Committee Name: Copyright Committee

Committee Charge:
The Committee shall monitor developments and shall inform and advise the Executive Board and the Government Relations Office on copyright and other intellectual property matters. In addition, the Committee shall inform the membership of notable intellectual property policy issues and other relevant matters, and provide educational opportunities and tools for the membership in copyright law. The Committee shall coordinate with the Government Relations Office to communicate Association views on copyright and other intellectual property issues to all levels of government. The Committee may, in accordance with Committee and Association policy, work with the AALL Government Relations Office to prepare and communicate Association positions to appropriate governmental bodies and to other interested groups, while keeping the President and the Executive Board informed of all such efforts. The manner of communication shall be determined by the Chair, the Government Relations Director and the President on critical issues.

Major Activities for 2009-2010:

Toward the AALL strategic direction, ADVOCACY
The committee continues to monitor developments in copyright with an eye towards the Executive Board, the Government Relations Office, and the membership in general.

As a follow-up to testimony given last year in the Section 1201 rulemaking in which we requested a DMCA exemption for use in law school teaching, we submitted a joint statement in response to the copyright office questions about setting specific quantitative limits for CSS circumvention for creating clips from DVDs. While new exemptions were scheduled to be announced by October 2009, the Copyright Office has continued the old exemptions while they still consider the issues. We anticipate new regulations in 2010.

Committee members are working on issues briefs on the subjects of the Google Book Settlement, the DMCA section 1201 exemptions, and Creative Commons.

Toward the AALL strategic direction, EDUCATION
The committee has completed the web page update begun by last year's committee.
To keep the membership informed of the latest copyright happenings our page includes a Twitter feed that any committee member can contribute to.

The copyright committee proposed three programs and one workshop for the annual meeting. The APC accepted one program, "Ten Things Every Law Librarian Needs to Know about Copyright" and one workshop, "Creative Commons Implementation Workshop".

The copyright committee is trying to reestablish regular contributions to Spectrum on copyright issues of interest to AALL members. One Spectrum article has already been submitted and another is planned.

Toward the AALL strategic direction, LEADERSHIP
The committee is working on a proposal that AALL take a leadership position in the rebalance of copyrights intellectual property rights holders and those wishing to use intellectual property. The committee is suggesting that AALL use the Creative Commons "some rights reserved" licenses for those AALL publications that we would like to see greater use and dissemination of. This eliminates some of the hassle of getting prior permissions to use things we would freely grant permission to use, while requiring the user to attribute the work to the original creators. We hope to have this proposal ready from the summer Executive Board meeting.

Proposed Activities for 2010-2011:
The committee will continue to monitor developments in copyright law and share information with AALL leadership and membership.

The committee is hoping to improve the committee web pages using tools we hope will be available after the upgrade of AALLNET.

The committee hopes to continue providing educational articles to the membership in Spectrum.
The committee plans on producing new issue briefs and updating existing issue briefs on copyright.

The committee plans on building tools to help AALL entities make use of the Creative Commons "limited rights reserved" licenses to increase use and usefulness of appropriate AALL-created content.